



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 6718***

*January Session, 2001*

***AN ACT CONCERNING STATE GRANTS FOR REGIONAL  
EFFICIENCY DEVELOPMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (a) As used in this section:
- 2       (1) "Municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated  
3       town and city or consolidated town and borough;
- 4       (2) "Joint program" means a service, undertaking or operation to be  
5       provided or performed in accordance with this section by more than  
6       one municipality, either by a municipality for another municipality on  
7       a contract basis or in any other manner authorized by law;
- 8       (3) "Political subdivision" means any local authority or district  
9       which performs a public function or service in any of the following  
10       areas: Fire protection, first aid, social services, community  
11       development, community or regional planning or public health; and
- 12       (4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
13       Management.
- 14       (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall  
15       provide financial assistance, within available appropriations, to  
16       municipalities for regional efficiency development. Notwithstanding  
17       the provisions of the general statutes, grants shall be made to any

18 municipality to provide a joint program that (1) a feasibility study  
19 prepared under subsection (d) of this section determines could only be  
20 provided on a joint basis; (2) is currently not being provided at all or  
21 which, based on the surveys submitted pursuant to subsection (d) of  
22 this section, is being provided at a level substantially below the  
23 minimum needs of the recipients; or (3) consolidates existing service  
24 systems to achieve efficiency and economy. Applications for joint  
25 program grants may be made for the following services: (A)  
26 Assessment and collection of taxes; (B) maintenance of municipal  
27 records and statistics and electronic data processing; (C) building,  
28 housing and plumbing code inspection and enforcement; (D) economic  
29 development strategies promoting transit oriented designs; (E) solid  
30 waste collection and disposal or recycling; (F) air pollution control  
31 inspection and enforcement; (G) welfare and social service programs;  
32 (H) maintenance and administration of parks and recreational and  
33 cultural facilities; (I) maintenance of roads, public works and beaches;  
34 (J) fire departments; and (K) energy conservation services.

35 (c) A municipality may apply for a grant under this section to  
36 provide for the services specified in subsection (b) of this section. A  
37 political subdivision may apply to participate in a joint program and  
38 receive financial assistance under this section provided application is  
39 made by the municipality in which the political subdivision is located.

40 (d) No grant shall be made unless the applicant has submitted to the  
41 secretary a plan of operation based on a feasibility study of the joint  
42 program proposed to be conducted. A feasibility study shall include  
43 such detailed surveys of existing service standards in the areas to be  
44 served by the joint program as may be required by the secretary to  
45 determine that a joint program would (1) enable provision of a needed  
46 service that would not otherwise be provided, or remedy existing  
47 levels of service provision, or otherwise produce better services at  
48 relatively lower unit costs or more efficient administration, (2) not  
49 adversely affect neighboring local units, and (3) not exclude adjacent  
50 municipalities that might benefit from the joint program. Not more  
51 than thirty days after submission of the feasibility study, the secretary

52 shall conduct a public hearing in each municipality to be included in  
53 the proposed joint program. Not more than thirty days after the last  
54 hearing on the feasibility study, the program shall be eligible for aid  
55 under this section. If the study recommends establishment of a joint  
56 program, not more than six months after the date of the last public  
57 hearing on the feasibility study, the legislative body of each  
58 municipality that participated in the study shall submit a statement to  
59 the secretary indicating its intention to implement the  
60 recommendation or detailing its objections to each recommendation  
61 made in the feasibility study for establishing a joint program. No joint  
62 program shall receive financial assistance unless the legislative body of  
63 each municipality has passed identical resolutions ratifying the  
64 conditions of the grant.

65 (e) The secretary may provide financial assistance to municipalities  
66 to conduct a feasibility study for a joint program.

67 (f) The secretary, upon request of the chief executive officer of a  
68 municipality, shall conduct a preliminary survey of the eligibility of  
69 the municipality for a grant under subsection (b) of this section with  
70 respect to any joint programs specified or suggested in such request.  
71 The preliminary survey shall be of sufficient scope and detail to enable  
72 the secretary to advise all municipalities and political subdivisions  
73 affected by the proposed joint program that a detailed feasibility study  
74 is warranted pursuant to this section. The commissioner shall transmit  
75 formal notice of the findings and conclusions of the preliminary survey  
76 to all municipalities and political subdivisions affected by the  
77 proposed joint program.

78 (g) The secretary shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
79 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for the administration  
80 of this section, including establishment of eligibility standards for joint  
81 programs and the application processes.

82 (h) The total of all grants under this section to municipalities located  
83 in the same planning region designated or redesignated by the

